

March 14, 2003

Public Notice 401 Certification
California Department of Transportation Highway 1 Post Mile 73.02
Culvert Repair Project, WDID No. 1B03030WNME
Mendocino County

On February 24, 2003, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the California Department of Transportation (CDOT) requesting Federal Clean Water Act Section 401 Certification for the Highway 1 Post Mile 73.02 Culvert Repair Project in Mendocino County. The proposed project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States tributary to the Pacific Ocean, Ten Mile River Hydrologic Sub Unit No. 113.13.

The project is located approximately four miles south of Westport. The project consists of the removal of a plastic culvert liner, reattachment of two segments of corrugated steel culvert, and construction of an end-wall at the outlet. The CDOT proposes to divert streamflow around the culvert, perform the culvert repair, and finally construct and cure the end-wall before removing the streamflow diversion system.

Approximately 0.0005 acres of streambed will be permanently impacted by the project. The steep topography is a natural barrier to endangered salmonids and no sensitive biological resources will be affected by the project. The CDOT applied for a 1601 streambed alteration agreement from the California Department of Fish and Game.

Non-compensatory mitigation measures include the use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) to control downstream turbidity and impacts from sediment discharge, and replanting to prevent erosion.

The Regional Water Board, as the lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, has determined that this project qualifies for a Categorical Exemption pursuant to CEQA.

Regional Water Board staff is proposing to regulate this culvert repair project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341). In addition, Regional Water Board staff will consider all comments received during a 21-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this notice. If you have any questions or comments, please contact staff member Mona Dougherty at (707) 570-3761, or at dougmn@rbl.swrcb.ca.gov within 21 days of the posting of this notice.